

Greatest Of All Times

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**"Education is a weapon
whose effects depend
on who holds it in his
hands and at whom it
is aimed."**

Joseph Stalin



18 Dec 1878 <::><::><::> 5 Mar 1953

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Having come to power in October 1917 by means of a coup d'état, Vladimir Lenin and the Bolsheviks spent the next few years struggling to maintain their rule against widespread popular opposition. They had overthrown the provisional democratic government and were inherently hostile to any form of popular participation in politics. In the name of the revolutionary cause, they employed ruthless methods to suppress real or perceived political enemies. The small, elite group of Bolshevik revolutionaries which formed the core of the newly established Communist Party dictatorship ruled by decree, enforced with terror.

This tradition of tight centralization, with decision-making concentrated at the highest party levels, reached new dimensions under Joseph Stalin. As many of these archival documents show, there was little input from below. The party elite determined the goals of the state and the means of achieving them in almost complete isolation from the people. They believed that the interests of the individual were to be sacrificed to those of the state, which was advancing a sacred social task. Stalin's "revolution from above" sought to build socialism by means of forced collectivization and industrialization, programs that entailed tremendous human suffering and loss of life.

Although this tragic episode in Soviet history at least had some economic purpose, the police terror inflicted upon the party and the

population in the 1930s, in which millions of innocent people perished, had no rationale beyond assuring Stalin's absolute dominance. By the time the Great Terror ended, Stalin had subjected all aspects of Soviet society to strict party-state control, not tolerating even the slightest expression of local initiative, let alone political unorthodoxy. The Stalinist leadership felt especially threatened by the intelligentsia, whose creative efforts were thwarted through the strictest censorship; by religious groups, who were persecuted and driven underground; and by non-Russian nationalities, many of whom were deported en masse to Siberia during World War II because Stalin questioned their loyalty.

Although Stalin's successors also persecuted writers and dissidents, they used police terror more sparingly to coerce the population, and they sought to gain some popular support by relaxing political controls and introducing economic incentives. Nonetheless, strict centralization continued and eventually led to the economic decline, inefficiency, and apathy that characterized the 1970s and 1980s, and contributed to the Chernobyl' nuclear disaster. Mikhail Gorbachev's program of perestroika was a reaction to this situation, but its success was limited by his reluctance to abolish the bastions of Soviet power—the party, the police, and the centralized economic system—until he was forced to do so after the attempted coup in August 1991. By that time, however, it was too late to hold either the Communist leadership or the Soviet Union together. After seventy-four years of existence, the Soviet system crumbled.

Kindly visit the cited Web Link to know MORE information.

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Death of Joseph Stalin

Moscow, 1953. After being in power for nearly 30 years, Soviet dictator, Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin, takes ill and quickly dies. Now the members of the Council of Ministers scramble for power.

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4686844/>

Joseph Stalin

National hero or cold-blooded Murderer?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/articles/zhv747h>

Stalin's name meant "man of steel" and he lived up to it. He oversaw the war machine that helped defeat Nazism and was the supreme ruler of the Soviet Union for a quarter of a century.

His regime of terror caused the death and suffering of tens of millions. But this powerful man began life as the son of an alcoholic cobbler and a doting mother who sent him to study to be a priest.



Young Stalin

1879

Born into poverty

He is born on 18 December 1879 in Gori, Georgia in the Russian empire. He is first named Iosif (Joseph) Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili.

Joseph grows up in poverty. His mother is a washerwoman and his father is a cobbler. He catches small pox aged seven and is left with a pockmarked face and a slightly deformed left arm. He is bullied by the other children and feels a continual need to prove himself. His father is an alcoholic who

deals out regular beatings. As young Joseph grows up, Georgia's romantic folklore and anti-Russian traditions capture his imagination.



Stalin as a young man

1899

Rebels against the priesthood

Joseph's religious mother wants him to be a priest and in 1895 sends him to study in Tiflis, the Georgian capital.

However, Joseph rebels and instead of studying scripture he reads the secret writings of Karl Marx and joins a local socialist group. He devotes much of his time to the revolutionary movement against the Russian monarchy and loses interest in his studies. Going against his mother's wishes, Joseph becomes an atheist and frequently argues with the priests. In 1899 he is finally thrown out of the seminary after failing to turn up to his exams.

1901

The revolutionary bandit

While working as a clerk at the Meteorological Observatory, Joseph carries on with his revolutionary activities, organising strikes and protests.

His activities become known to the Tsarist secret police and he is forced to go underground. He joins the Bolshevik party and conducts guerrilla warfare for the first time in the 1905 Russian Revolution. His first meeting with Lenin, the Bolshevik leader, is at a party conference in Finland. Lenin is impressed by this 'ruthless underground operator'. In 1907 Joseph steals 250,000 rubles (approximately \$3.4m in US dollars) in a bank robbery in Tiflis to help fund the cause.

David Reynolds describes Stalin's life as a Bolshevik bank robber. Clips from World War Two: 1941 and the Man of Steel (BBC Four, 2013).



Stalin's first wife Ketevan Svanidze

1907 Man of steel

Joseph marries his first wife Ketevan Svanidze in 1906. She comes from a poor family of minor nobility.

Ketevan gives birth to their son Yakov Dzhugashvili the following year. After the Tiflis bank robbery Joseph and his family escape Tsarist forces by travelling to Baku in Azerbaijan. When Ketevan dies of typhus in 1907, Joseph is wracked with grief. He leaves his son to be cared for by his wife's parents and throws himself into his revolutionary work. He adopts the name 'Stalin' which means 'steel' in Russian. He is arrested on a number of occasions and exiled to Siberia in 1910.



**Lenin speaks at the First All-Russian Congress of Soviets with Stalin at his side.
1917**

Takes part in the Russian Revolution

Lenin organises the Russian Revolution and promises "peace, land, and bread". Stalin plays a crucial role by running Pravda, the Bolshevik newspaper.

He is hailed as a hero when he helps Lenin to escape from the Tsar's army into Finland and is appointed to the inner circle of the Bolshevik party. When the Tsar is toppled the country descends into civil war. Stalin, like other the hardliners within the party, orders the public execution of deserters and renegades. When Lenin takes power he appoints Stalin to be General Secretary of the Communist Party. Stalin gains new skills working as a mediator for officials throughout the party.

1929

Stalin promotes himself to dictator

After Lenin's death in 1924, Stalin begins ruthlessly promoting himself as his political heir.

Many in the party expect Red Army leader Leon Trotsky to be Lenin's natural successor, but his ideas are too idealistic for the majority of the Communist Party. Stalin, however, develops his own nationalistic brand of Marxism – "Socialism in One Country" – concentrating on strengthening the Soviet Union rather than world revolution. When Trotsky criticises his plans, Stalin has him exiled. Stalin's ideas are popular with the party and by the late 1920s he becomes dictator of the Soviet Union.

David Reynolds gives his take on how Stalin rose to power. Clips from World War Two: 1941 and the Man of Steel (BBC Four, 2013).

1928-1938

Rapid industrialisation

In the late 1920s Stalin instigates a series of five year plans to turn the Soviet Union into a modern industrialised country.

He is afraid that if the Soviet Union does not modernise then Communism will fail and the country will be destroyed by its capitalist neighbours. He achieves huge increases in coal, oil, and steel productivity and the country sees massive economic growth. His plans are ruthlessly enforced – factories are given strict targets which many workers find impossible to fulfil. Those who fail are scapegoated by many as wreckers and saboteurs and imprisoned or executed as enemies of the state.

Andrew Graham-Dixon explain how Stalin's Five Year Plans revolutionised Soviet industry. Clip from The Art of Russia (BBC Four, 2011).



Soviet Russian propaganda poster

1928-1940

Collectivisation causes massive famines

When Stalin takes power, Soviet agriculture is still dominated by small landowners and blighted by famines and inefficiency.

Stalin modernises agriculture by instigating collectivisation – the grouping together of farms to be owned by the state. It is opposed by millions of ordinary farmers who resort to killing livestock and secretly hoarding grain. Around five million die in a series of famines. Nevertheless, Stalin believes the end justifies the means and millions of small holders are killed or imprisoned. By the late 1930s farming is fully collectivised and productivity increases.

1934-39

Stalin's Great Terror

Stalin promotes an image of himself as a great benevolent leader and hero of the Soviet Union.

Yet he is increasingly paranoid and purges the Communist party and Army of anyone who might oppose him. Ninety three of the 139 Central Committee members are killed and 81 of the 103 generals and admirals are executed. The secret police strictly enforce Stalinism and people are encouraged to inform on one another. Three million people are accused of opposing Communism and sent to the gulag, a system of labour camps in Siberia. Around 750,000 people are summarily killed.

Andrew Graham-Dixon explains how dangerous life could be in Stalin's Russia. Clip from The Art of Russia (BBC Four, 2011).



Stalin with his son Vassily and daughter Svetlana

1932-1943

Stalin loses his wife and son

In 1919 Stalin marries his second wife Nadezhda Alliluyeva and they have two children – Svetlana and Vassily.

He abuses Nadezhda and she eventually kills herself in 1932. He makes sure her death is officially reported as being caused by appendicitis. Yakov, his son from his first wife, is a soldier in the Red Army and is captured early on in WW2. When the Germans propose to free him in a prisoner swap, Stalin refuses as he believes his son surrendered voluntarily, Yakov dies in a Nazi concentration camp in 1943.



Stalin and Hitler agree to carve up Eastern Europe

1939

Bargains with the Nazis

Stalin signs a nonaggression pact with Adolf Hitler and they agree to carve up Eastern Europe between them.

When Hitler's armies easily defeat France and Britain retreats, Stalin ignores warnings from his generals and is completely unprepared for the Nazi Blitzkrieg attack of June 1941, which tears through Poland and into the Soviet Union. The Soviet Army suffer huge losses. Stalin is incandescent with rage at Hitler's betrayal and retreats to his office unable to make any decisions. Soviet Russia is paralysed for several days as the Nazi war machine rolls on towards Moscow.

1943 **Defeats Hitler**

With the future of the Soviet Union hanging in the balance, Stalin is prepared to sacrifice millions to achieve victory over the Nazis.

German forces sweep across the country and by December 1941 have almost reached Moscow. Stalin refuses to leave the city, deciding victory must be won at any cost. The Battle of Stalingrad is the turning point of the war. Hitler attacks the city bearing Stalin's name to humiliate him, but Stalin tells his army "Not a step backwards". They suffer over a million casualties but manage to defeat the Nazis in 1943. The Soviet Army begins the long push back into Germany and all the way to Berlin.

Andrew Graham-Dixon describes Stalin's rousing speech to his generals. Clip from The Art of Russia (BBC Four, 2011).



First Soviet atomic bomb test

1946 **Iron Curtain falls over Europe**

Stalin plays a decisive role in Germany's defeat and great swathes of Eastern Europe are occupied by Soviet forces including East Berlin.

Stalin is adamant these countries will be satellite states of the Soviet Union. His former allies America and Britain now become his rivals and Churchill states that an "iron curtain" is falling over Europe. In a struggle for control of the capital, Stalin blocks entry to allied-occupied West Berlin. The US responds with an 11-month long airlift of supplies to people trapped in that part of the city. On 29 August 1949 the Soviet Union tests its first atomic bomb. The Cold War begins in earnest.

1953

Death of Stalin and the end of an era

In Stalin's last years he becomes increasingly suspicious, and continues to conduct purges against his enemies within the Party.

After a night of heavy drinking Stalin dies of a stroke on 5 March 1953. Many in the Soviet Union mourn the loss of this great leader who transformed the Soviet Union from a feudal economy to an industrial power and played a crucial role in defeating Hitler. But the millions incarcerated cheer at the demise of one of the most murderous dictators in history. Stalin's successor Khrushchev denounces the dead dictator and begins a wave of "destalinization."

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Joseph Stalin

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Stalin

Joseph Stalin



Stalin at the [Tehran Conference](#), 1943

General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

In office

3 April 1922 – 16 October 1952

Preceded by [Vyacheslav Molotov](#) (as Responsible Secretary)

Succeeded by [Nikita Khrushchev](#) (as First Secretary)

Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union

In office

6 May 1941 – 5 March 1953

First Deputy

- [Nikolai Voznesensky](#)
- Vyacheslav Molotov
- [Nikolai Bulganin](#)

Preceded by Vyacheslav Molotov

Succeeded by [Georgy Malenkov](#)

Minister of the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union^[c]

In office

19 July 1941 – 3 March 1947

Premier *Himself*

Preceded by [Semyon Timoshenko](#)

Succeeded by Nikolai Bulganin

People's Commissar for Nationalities of the Russian SFSR

In office

8 November 1917 – 7 July 1923

Premier [Vladimir Lenin](#)

Preceded by *Office established*

Succeeded by *Office abolished*

Personal details

Born Ioseb Besarionis dze Jughashvili

18 December [[O.S.](#) 6 December] 1878
[Gori](#), Russian Empire

Died 5 March 1953 (aged 74)
[Moscow](#), Soviet Union

Resting place

- [Lenin's Mausoleum](#), Moscow (1953–1961)
- [Kremlin Wall Necropolis](#), Moscow (since 1961)

Political party	CPSU (from 1912)
Other political affiliations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSDLP (1898 – 1912; Bolshevik faction from 1903)
Spouses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ekaterine Svanidze (m. 1906; died 1907) • Nadezhda Alliluyeva (m. 1919; died 1932)
Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yakov Dzhugashvili • Vasily Stalin • Artyom Sergeyev (adopted) • Svetlana Alliluyeva
Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Besarion Jughashvili • Ekaterine Geladze
Alma mater	Tiflis Theological Seminary
Awards	Full list
Signature	
Nickname	Koba
Military service	
Allegiance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soviet Russia • Soviet Union
Branch	Red Army
Years of service	1918–1920
Rank	Generalissimo (from 1945)
Commands	Soviet Armed Forces (from 1941)
Battles/wars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russian Civil War • Polish–Soviet War • World War II

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The Tehran Conference, 1943

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1937-1945/tehran-conf>



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The Tehran Conference was a meeting between U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin in Tehran, Iran, between November 28 and December 1, 1943.



Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill at the Tehran Conference

During the Conference, the three leaders coordinated their military strategy against Germany and Japan and made a number of important decisions concerning the post-World War II era. The most notable achievements of the Conference focused on the next phases of the war against the Axis powers in Europe and Asia. Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin engaged in discussions concerning the terms under which the British and Americans finally committed to launching Operation Overlord, an invasion of northern France, to be executed by May of 1944. The Soviets, who had long been pushing the Allies to open a second front, agreed to launch another major offensive on the Eastern Front that would divert German troops away from the Allied campaign in northern France. Stalin also agreed in principle that the Soviet Union would declare war against Japan following an Allied victory over Germany. In exchange for a Soviet declaration of war against Japan, Roosevelt conceded to Stalin's demands for the Kurile Islands and the southern half of Sakhalin, and access to the ice-free ports of Dairen (Dalian) and Port Arthur (Lüshun Port) located on the Liaodong Peninsula in northern China. The exact details concerning this deal were not finalized, however, until the Yalta Conference of 1945.

At Tehran, the three Allied leaders also discussed important issues concerning the fate of Eastern Europe and Germany in the postwar period. Stalin pressed for a revision of Poland's eastern border with the Soviet Union to match the line set by British Foreign Secretary Lord Curzon in 1920. In order to compensate Poland for the resulting loss of territory, the three leaders agreed to move the German-Polish border to the Oder and Neisse rivers. This decision was not formally ratified, however, until the Potsdam Conference of 1945. During these negotiations Roosevelt also secured from Stalin his assurance that the Republics of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia would be reincorporated into the Soviet Union only after the citizens of each republic voted on the question in a referendum. Stalin stressed, however, that the matter would have to be resolved "in

accordance with the Soviet constitution," and that he would not consent to any international control over the elections. Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin also broached the question of the possible postwar partition of Germany into Allied zones of occupation and agreed to have the European Advisory Commission "carefully study the question of dismemberment" before any final decision was taken.

Broader international cooperation also became a central theme of the negotiations at Tehran. Roosevelt and Stalin privately discussed the composition of the United Nations. During the Moscow Conference of the Foreign Ministers in October and November of 1943, the United States, Britain, China, and the Soviet Union had signed a four-power declaration whose fourth point called for the creation of a "general international organization" designed to promote "international peace and security." At Tehran, Roosevelt outlined for Stalin his vision of the proposed organization in which the future United Nations would be dominated by "four policemen" (the United States, Britain, China, and Soviet Union) who "would have the power to deal immediately with any threat to the peace and any sudden emergency which requires action."

Finally, the three leaders issued a "Declaration of the Three Powers Regarding Iran." Within it, they thanked the Iranian Government for its assistance in the war against Germany and promised to provide it with economic assistance both during and after the war. Most importantly, the U.S., British, and Soviet Governments stated that they all shared a "desire for the maintenance of the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Iran."

Roosevelt secured many of his objectives during the Conference. The Soviet Union had committed to joining the war against Japan and expressed support for Roosevelt's plans for the United Nations. Most importantly, Roosevelt believed that he had won Stalin's confidence by proving that the United States was willing to negotiate directly with the Soviet Union and, most importantly, by guaranteeing the opening of the second front in France by the spring of 1944. However, Stalin also gained tentative concessions on Eastern Europe that would be confirmed during the later wartime conferences.

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Stalin during the Russian Revolution

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalin_during_the_Russian_Revolution,_Civil_War_and_Polish%E2%80%93Soviet_War

[Joseph Stalin](#) was the [General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union's Central Committee](#) from 1922 until his death in 1953. In the years following [Lenin's](#) death in 1924, he rose to become the leader of the [Soviet Union](#).

[After growing up in Georgia, Stalin conducted activities for the Bolshevik party](#) for twelve years before the [Russian Revolution of 1917](#). He had been involved in a number of criminal activities as a [robber](#), [gangster](#) and [arsonist](#). After being elected to the Bolshevik Central Committee in April 1917, Stalin helped [Lenin](#) to evade capture by authorities and ordered the besieged Bolsheviks to surrender to avoid a bloodbath. The Bolsheviks then seized [Petrograd](#) and Stalin was appointed People's Commissar for Nationalities' Affairs.

In the [Civil War](#) that followed between [Lenin's](#) Red Army against the [White Army](#), Stalin formed alliances with [Kliment Voroshilov](#) and [Semyon Budyonny](#) while leading troops in the [Caucasus](#). There, he ordered the killings of former Tsarist officers and counter-revolutionaries. After their Civil War victory, the Bolsheviks moved to expand the revolution into Europe, starting with [Poland](#), which was fighting the Red Army in [Ukraine](#). As joint commander of an army in Ukraine, Stalin's actions in the war were later criticized, including by [Leon Trotsky](#).

Background

Stalin was born on December 18, 1878 [Gori, Georgia](#) to a family of limited financial means. He was the fourth child born to the family of Ekaterina Gheladze and Vissarion Djugashvili; the prior three children of the couple had died at an early age. Stalin later became politically active and, during the [Russian Revolution of 1905](#), organized and armed [Bolshevik](#) militias across Georgia, running protection rackets and waging guerrilla warfare. After meeting [Lenin](#) at a Bolshevik conference in 1906 and marrying [Ekaterina Svanidze](#), with whom he had a son [Yakov](#), Stalin temporarily resigned from the party over its ban on bank robberies. Embarking on an effort to organize Muslim [Azeri](#) and [Persian](#) partisans in the [Caucasus](#), Stalin conducted a range of criminal activities until arrest and exile in 1908. He fulfilled these activities through his formation of the Outfit, a criminal gang that were involved with [armed robberies](#), [racketeering](#), [assassinations](#), arms procurement and child [couriering](#).

Between 1908 and 1917, Stalin was arrested seven times and escaped five times, enjoying less than two years of liberty in the nine-year period.

Role during the Russian Revolution

Supporting revolution and saving Lenin

In the wake of the [February Revolution](#) of 1917 (the first phase of the [Russian Revolution of 1917](#)), Stalin was released from exile. On March 25 he returned to [Petrograd](#) (Saint Petersburg) with just a typewriter and a wicker suitcase, wearing a suit he had on in 1913 when he was arrested.^[6] On March 28, together with [Lev Kamenev](#) and [Matvei Muranov](#), Stalin ousted [Vyacheslav Molotov](#) and [Alexander Shlyapnikov](#) as editors of [Pravda](#), the official Bolshevik newspaper, while Lenin and much of the

Bolshevik leadership were still in exile. Stalin and the new editorial board took a position in favor of the [Provisional Government](#) (Molotov and Shlyapnikov had wanted to overthrow it) and went to the extent of declining to publish Lenin's 'letters from afar' arguing for the provisional government to be overthrown. He described them as *"Unsatisfactory...a sketch with no facts."*

For a week from March 12, Stalin stopped writing articles, this may have been when he switched to Lenin's position. However, after Lenin prevailed at the April Party conference, Stalin and the rest of the *Pravda* staff came on board with Lenin's view and called for overthrowing the provisional government. At this April 1917 Party conference, Stalin was elected to the Bolshevik Central Committee with 97 votes in the party, the third highest after [Zinoviev](#) and Lenin. These three plus Kamenev formed the Central Committee's Bureau. Stalin would share a flat with Molotov where he apologised: "You were the nearest of all to Lenin in the initial stage in April."

On June 24, Stalin threatened to resign when Lenin turned against the idea of an armed demonstration when the Soviets refused to support it. It went ahead anyway on July 1 and was a Bolshevik triumph.

In mid-July, armed mobs led by Bolshevik militants took to the streets of Petrograd, killing army officers and who were considered bourgeois civilians. Sailors from [Kronstadt](#) phoned Stalin asking if an armed uprising was feasible. He said: "Rifles? You comrades know best." This was enough encouragement for them. They demanded the overthrow of the government, but neither the Bolshevik leadership nor the [Petrograd Soviet](#) was willing to take power, having been totally surprised by this unplanned revolt. After the disappointed mobs dispersed, [Kerensky's](#) government struck back at the Bolsheviks. Loyalist troops raided *Pravda* on July 18 and surrounded the Bolshevik headquarters. Stalin helped [Lenin](#) evade capture minutes before and, to avoid a bloodbath, ordered the besieged Bolsheviks in the [Peter and Paul Fortress](#) to surrender.

Stalin put Lenin in five different hiding places, the last being the Alliluyev family apartment. Convinced Lenin would be killed if caught, Stalin persuaded him not to surrender and smuggled him to [Finland](#). He shaved off Lenin's beard and moustache, took him to Primorsky station then to a shack north of Petrograd, then to a barn in Finland. In Lenin's absence, Stalin assumed leadership of the Bolsheviks. At the [Sixth Congress of the Bolshevik party](#), held secretly in [Petrograd](#), Stalin gave the main report, was chosen to be the chief editor of the Party press and a member of the [Constituent Assembly](#), and was re-elected to the Central Committee.

Coup of General Lavr Kornilov in August 1917

In September [[O.S.](#) August] 1917, [Kerensky](#) suspected his newly appointed Commander-in-Chief, General [Lavr Kornilov](#), of planning a coup

and dismissed him (10 September [[O.S. 27 August](#)] 1917). Believing that Kerensky had acted under Bolshevik pressure, Kornilov decided to [march his troops](#) on [Petrograd](#). In desperation, Kerensky turned to the [Petrograd Soviet](#) for help and released the Bolsheviks, who raised a small army to defend the capital. In the end, Kerensky convinced Kornilov's army to stand down and to disband without violence.

October Revolution

The Bolsheviks now found themselves free, rearmed, swelling with new recruits and under Stalin's firm control, whilst Kerensky had few troops loyal to him in the capital. Lenin decided that the time for a coup had arrived. [Kamenev](#) and [Zinoviev](#) proposed a coalition with the Mensheviks, but Stalin and [Trotsky](#) backed Lenin's wish for an exclusively Bolshevik government. [Lenin](#) returned to [Petrograd](#) in October. On October 23, the Central Committee voted 10–2 in favor of an insurrection; Kamenev and Zinoviev voted in opposition.

On the morning of 6 November [[O.S. 25 October](#)] 1917 Kerensky's troops raided Stalin's press headquarters and smashed his printing presses. While he worked to restore his presses, Stalin missed a Central Committee meeting where assignments for the coup were being issued. Stalin instead spent the afternoon briefing Bolshevik delegates and passing communications to and from [Lenin](#), who was in hiding.

Early the next day, Stalin went to the [Smolny Institute](#) from where he, [Lenin](#) and the rest of the Central Committee coordinated the coup. Kerensky left the capital to rally the Imperial troops at the German front. By 8 November [[O.S. 27 October](#)] 1917, the Bolsheviks had "stormed" the [Winter Palace](#) and arrested most of the members of Kerensky's cabinet.

Establishing government

On 7 November (O.S. 26 October) 1917, Lenin officially proclaimed the existence of the new Bolshevik government, which became known as "[Sovnarkom](#)". Stalin was not yet well known to the Russian public, but was included on a list of new People's Commissars—effectively government ministers—under the name of "J. V. Djughashvili-Stalin". Stalin moved into the Smolny Institute, where Sovnarkom was then based. It was probably Lenin who had proposed Stalin for the position of People's Commissar of Nationalities, and while Stalin had initially turned down the post, he ultimately relented. He and [Yakov Sverdlov](#) were also tasked with ensuring that Petrograd was defended from Kerensky's Cossack forces which had rallied in the [Pulkovo Heights](#).

During the first few months of the new government, Lenin, Stalin, and Trotsky formed what the historian [Simon Sebag Montefiore](#) described as an "inseparable troika". Lenin recognised both Stalin and Trotsky as "men of action" who stood out in this regard from many of the other senior Bolsheviks. On 29 November, the Bolshevik Central Committee established

a four-man [Chetverka](#) to lead the country; it consisted of Lenin, Stalin, Trotsky, and Sverdlov.

On 7 December, Lenin's government formed the [Cheka](#), a political police force. On 27 October, they banned opposition press. Stalin supported the use of terror from the beginning; in response to a message from Estonian Bolsheviks suggesting how they could deal with opponents, he stated that "the idea of a concentration camp is excellent".

Role in the Russian Civil War, 1917–1919

Upon seizing [Petrograd](#), the Bolsheviks formed the new revolutionary authority, the [Council of People's Commissars](#). Stalin was appointed People's Commissar for Nationalities' Affairs; his job was to establish an institution to win over non-Russian citizens of the former Russian Empire. He was relieved of his post as editor of *Pravda* so that he could devote himself fully to his new role.

In March 1918, the Menshevik leader [Julius Martov](#) published an article exposing Bolshevik crimes committed before the revolution. Martov wrote that Stalin had organized bank robberies and had been expelled from his own party for doing so (the latter part is untrue). Stalin sued Martov for libel.

After seizing Petrograd, civil war broke out in Russia, pitting [Lenin's](#) Red Army against the [White Army](#), a loose alliance of anti-Bolshevik forces. Lenin formed an eight-member [Politburo](#) which included Stalin and [Trotsky](#). During this time, only Stalin and Trotsky were allowed to see Lenin without an appointment.

In May 1918, Lenin dispatched Stalin to the city of [Tsaritsyn](#) (later known as Stalingrad, now Volgograd). Situated on the [Lower Volga](#), it was a key supply route to the oil and grain of the North Caucasus. There was a critical shortage of food in Russia, and Stalin was assigned to procure any he could find according to [Prodrazvyorstka](#) policy. The city was also in danger of falling to the [White Army](#). He opposed the "[military specialists](#)"—former [Tsarist](#) professional military officers—and formed the "Tsaritsyn group," a loose group of like-minded [Bolshevik](#) military leaders and party members personally loyal to Stalin. In doing so, he first met and befriended [Kliment Voroshilov](#) and [Semyon Budyonny](#), both of whom would become two of Stalin's key supporters in the military. Through his new allies, he imposed his influence on the military; in July [Lenin](#) granted his request for official control over military operations in the region to fight the [Battle for Tsaritsyn](#).

Stalin challenged many of the decisions of [Trotsky](#), who at this time was Chairman of the [Revolutionary Military Council](#) of the Republic and thus his military superior. He ordered the killings of many former Tsarist officers in the Red Army; Trotsky, in agreement with the Central Committee, had hired

them for their expertise, but Stalin distrusted them, seizing documents which showed many were agents for the White Army. This created friction between Stalin and Trotsky. Stalin even wrote to Lenin asking that Trotsky be relieved of his post.

Stalin ordered the executions of any suspected counter-revolutionaries. In the countryside, he burned villages to intimidate the peasantry into submission and discourage bandit raids on food shipments.

In May 1919, Stalin was dispatched to the Western Front, near [Petrograd](#). To stem mass desertions and defections of Red Army soldiers, Stalin had deserters and renegades rounded up and publicly executed as traitors.

Role in the Polish-Soviet War, 1919–1920

After the Bolsheviks turned the tide and were winning the civil war in late 1919, Lenin and many others wanted to expand the revolution westwards into Europe, starting with [Poland](#), which was fighting the Red Army in Byelorussia and [Ukraine](#). Stalin, in Ukraine at the time, argued these ambitions were unrealistic but lost. He was briefly transferred to the Caucasus in February 1920, but managed to get transferred back to Ukraine in May where he accepted the position of the [Comissar](#) of the South-West Front (commander [Alexander Yegorov](#)).

In late July 1920, Yegorov moved against the then-Polish city of [Lwów](#), which conflicted with the general strategy set by Lenin and Trotsky by drawing his troops further away from the forces advancing on [Warsaw](#). In mid-August, the Commander-in-Chief [Sergei Kamenev](#) ordered the transfer of troops ([1st Cavalry Army](#), commanded by [Semyon Budyonny](#) and [Kliment Voroshilov](#)) from Yegorov's forces to reinforce the attack on Warsaw led by [Mikhail Tukhachevsky](#). Stalin refused to counter-sign the order because it did not have the requisite two signatures on it, a reasonable response. In the end, the battles for both Lwów and Warsaw were lost, and Stalin's actions were held partly to blame.

[Richard Pipes](#) suggested Lenin was more to blame, for ordering Soviet troops south to spread the revolution to Romania, and north to secure the Polish corridor for Germany (this would win over German nationalists). Both these diversions weakened the Soviet assault. Much blame must be laid on the overall commander, [Sergei Kamenev](#), for permitting insubordination from both front commanders and conflicting and ever-changing strategic orders during the critical phase in the attack on Warsaw.

Stalin returned to Moscow in August 1920, where he defended himself before the [Politburo](#) by attacking the whole campaign strategy. Although this tactic worked, he nonetheless resigned his military commission, something he had repeatedly threatened to do when he didn't get his way. At the Ninth Party Conference on September 22, Trotsky openly criticized Stalin's war record. Stalin was accused of insubordination,

personal ambition, military incompetence and seeking to build his own reputation by victories on his own front at the expense of operations elsewhere. Neither he nor anybody else challenged these attacks; he only briefly reaffirmed his position that the war itself was a mistake, something which everybody agreed on by this point.

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Tiflis Theological Seminary, which Stalin attended from 1894 to 1899



Stalin first met Vladimir Lenin at a 1905 conference in Tampere, Finland.



Mugshot of Stalin made in 1911



First issue of Pravda, of which Stalin served as an early editor



Stalin wearing his Order of the Red Banner in 1921



From left to right: Stalin, Alexei Rykov, Lev Kamenev, and Grigory Zinoviev in 1925. All three later fell out with Stalin and were executed during the Great Purge.



Stalin and his close associates Anastas Mikoyan and Sergo Ordzhonikidze in Tbilisi, 1925



Aleksei Stakhanov with a fellow miner. Stalin's government initiated the Stakhanovite movement in order to encourage hard work.



1931 demolition of the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow in order to make way for the planned Palace of the Soviets



Map of areas affected by the Soviet famine of 1932-1933



Review of Soviet armoured vehicles used to equip the Republican Army during the Spanish Civil War



Exhumed mass grave of the Vinnytsia massacre, 1943



Memorial to a victim of the Great Purge at the Bykivnia mass grave



With all the men at the front, women dig anti-tank trenches around Moscow in 1941



The centre of Stalingrad after its liberation, February 1943



The Big Three: Stalin, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill at the Tehran Conference, November 1943



Soviet soldiers in Polotsk, July 1944



British Prime Minister Clement Attlee, U.S. President Harry S. Truman and Stalin at the Potsdam Conference, July 1945



Banner of Stalin in Budapest in 1949



Stalin at his 70th birthday celebration with (left to right) Mao Zedong, Nikolai Bulganin, Walter Bricht and Yumjaagin Tsedenbal, 1949



1950 Chinese stamp depicting Stalin and Mao shaking hands, commemorating the signing of the new Sino-Soviet Treaty



Stalin's funeral procession on Okhotny Ryad







Awards and Honours



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honours_received_by_Joseph_Stalin

This is a list of **awards and honorary titles received by Joseph Stalin**, a Georgian revolutionary and Soviet political leader who served as both General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (1922-1952) and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union (1941-1953).


USSR

Award or decoration		Date	Awarded for
	Marshal's Star	6 March 1943	"Promotion to Marshal of the Soviet Armed Forces."
	Hero of the Soviet Union	26 June 1945	"For leading the Red Army in the defense of Soviet Union and its capital Moscow, and for leading the fight against Hitler's Germany ."
	Hero of Socialist Labour	20 December 1939	"For exceptional services in organizing the Bolshevik Party , building a socialist society in the USSR and strengthening friendship between the peoples of USSR."
	Order of Victory	29 July 1944 26 June 1945	"For exceptional services in organizing and conducting offensive operations of the Red Army, which led to the largest defeat of the German army and to a radical change in the situation on the front of the struggle against the German invaders in favor of the Red Army." "For exceptional services in the organization of all the armed forces"










			of the Soviet Union and their skillful leadership in the Great Patriotic War, which ended in complete victory over Nazi Germany."
	Order of Lenin	20 December 1939 26 June 1945 20 December 1949	<p>"For exceptional services in organizing the Bolshevik Party, building a socialist society in the USSR and strengthening friendship between the peoples of USSR."</p> <p>"For leading the Red Army in the defense of Soviet Union and its capital Moscow, and for leading the fight against Hitler's Germany."</p> <p>"In connection with his 70th birthday and taking into account his exceptional merits in strengthening and developing the USSR, building communism in the country, organizing the defeat of the German fascist invaders and Japanese imperialists, as well as in restoring the national economy in the post-war period."</p>
	Order of the Red Banner	27 November 1919 13 February 1930 30 November 1944	<p>"In commemoration of his services in the defense of Petrograd and selfless work on the Southern Front, during the Russian Civil War."</p> <p>"For great services on the front of social construction."</p> <p>"For 20 years of service"</p>
	Order of Suvorov , 1st class	6 November 1943	"For the correct leadership of the operations of Red Army in the Patriotic War against the German invaders and the successes achieved."
	Medal "For the Defence of Moscow"	20 July 1944	For all the participants of the defence of Moscow .
	Medal "For the Victory over Germany in the Great Patriotic War 1941–1945"	May 1945	To all civilian and military personnel in the Soviet army , navy and the NKVD .
	Medal "For the Victory over Japan"	October 1945	To all civilian and military personnel in the Soviet army , navy and







			the NKVD , who took part in the Soviet–Japanese War .
	Jubilee Medal "XX Years of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army"	1938	Awarded to marshals, generals, admirals, officers and servicemen to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Soviet armed forces .
	Medal "In Commemoration of the 800th Anniversary of Moscow"	September 1947	Awarded to all citizens who participated in the restoration and reconstruction of Moscow.

Soviet republics

Award or decoration		Date	Republic
	Order of the Red Star , 1st class	18 August 1922	Bukharan People's Soviet Republic

Foreign

Award or decoration		Country	Date
	Order of the White Lion , 1st class	 Czechoslovakia	1945
	Military Order of the White Lion , "For Victory", 1st class	 Czechoslovakia	1945
	Czechoslovak War Cross	 Czechoslovakia	1943 1945
	Hero of the Mongolian People's Republic	 Mongolia	17 December 1949
	Order of Sukhbaatar	 Mongolia	1945 17 December 1949

	Medal "For the Victory over Japan"	 Mongolia	1945
	Medal "25 Years of the Mongolian People's Revolution"	 Mongolia	1946
	Order of the Republic	 Tuva	1943

Honorary titles

USSR

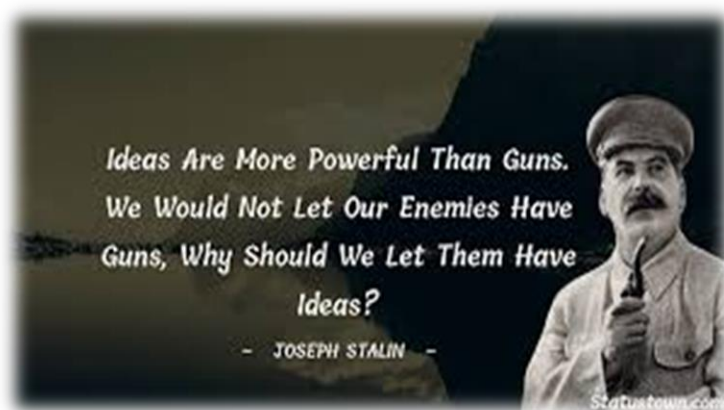
Title	Place	Date
Honorary Red Army soldier of the 1st Cavalry Army	USSR	1923
Honorary Deputy of the City Council of Yuzovka	Ukrainian SSR	9 March 1924
Honorary Miner of Yuzovka	Ukrainian SSR	9 March 1924
Honorary Cadet of the Chirchiq Higher Tank Command and Engineering School	Uzbek SSR	1925
Honorary Rector of the Communist University of the Toilers of the East	Russian SFSR	
Honorary Member of the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union	Russian SFSR	1939
Honorary Member of the VASKhNIL	Russian SFSR	1939

Foreign

Title	Country	Date	Notes
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Honorary Citizen of Varna	Bulgaria	1949	
Honorary Citizen of České Budějovice	Czechoslovakia (present-day Czech Republic)		Title revoked on 15 May 2017
Honorary Citizen of Košice	Czechoslovakia (present-day Slovakia)		Title revoked in 2007
Honorary Citizen of Budapest	Hungary	7 November 1947	Title revoked on 29 April 2004
Honorary Citizen of Szczecin	Poland	1949	
Honorary Citizen of Wrocław	Poland	1949	
Honorary Distinguished Chieftain of Mohawk nation	Kahnawake	1942	Chieftain's War bonnet was gifted to Stalin by Native American tribes. It is now on display in the State museum of modern history of Russia (formerly "Museum of Revolution").

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The Death of Stalin and the Cold War

https://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtid=2&psid=3407

In March 1953, Joseph Stalin, who had ruled the Soviet Union since 1928, died at the age of 73. His feared minister of internal affairs, Lavrenti Pavlovich Beria, was subsequently shot for treason. Nikita Khrushchev then became first secretary of the Communist Party.

Stalin's death led to a temporary thaw in Cold War tensions. In 1955, Austria regained its sovereignty and became an independent, neutral nation after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country. The next year, Khrushchev denounced Stalin and his policies at the 20th Communist Party conference. After a summit between President Eisenhower and the new Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev in Geneva, the Soviets announced plans to reduce its armed forces by more than 600,000 troops. In early 1956, Khrushchev called for "peaceful coexistence" between the East and West.

Relaxation of economic and political controls encouraged Eastern Europeans to demand greater freedom. In 1953, after Communist authorities in East Germany attempted to increase working hours without raising wages, strikes and riots broke out in East Berlin and other cities. Some three million East Germans fled to the West. To halt this mass exodus, in August 1961, East German authorities erected a wall separating East and West Berlin.

In 1956, Polish workers rioted to protest economic conditions under the Communist regime. Poles also demanded removal of Soviet officers from the Polish army. More than a hundred demonstrators were killed as authorities moved to suppress the riots. Communist authorities did, however, release Polish prelate, Stefan Cardinal Wysinski, from custody to help end efforts to collectivize Polish agriculture.

In Hungary, university students expressed solidarity with the Polish rebels. More than 100,000 workers and students demanded a democratic government, the withdrawal of Soviet troops, and the release of Jozsef Cardinal Mindszenty, who had been held in solitary confinement since the end of 1948. Sixteen Soviet divisions and 2,000

tanks crushed the Hungarian revolution after Hungary's Premier Imre Nagy promised Hungarians free elections and an end to one-party rule and denounced the Warsaw Pact. Soviet authorities feared that their intermediate ballistic missiles could only reach targets in Southern Europe if launched from bases in Hungary. Some 200,000 Hungarians fled the country after the suppression of the uprising.

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QUOTES

1. The death of one man is a tragedy; the death of millions is a statistic.
2. It is not the people who vote that count; it is the people who count the votes.
3. The only real power comes out of a long rifle.
4. Quantity has a quality all its own.
5. History shows that there are no invincible armies.
6. You cannot make a revolution with silk gloves.
7. Death is the solution to all problems. No man, no problem.
8. Gratitude is a sickness suffered by dogs.
9. In the Soviet army, it takes more courage to retreat than advance.
10. A single death is a tragedy; a million deaths is a statistic.
11. The people are like water; they will flow in the direction you lead them.
12. Ideas are more powerful than weapons.
13. A man who is afraid will be ashamed to die.
14. Revolutions are not made; they come.

15. The future belongs to those who prepare for it today.
16. We do not believe in the impossible.
17. To choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances is to take responsibility.
18. You can't make an omelet without breaking a few eggs.
19. In politics, the end justifies the means.
20. When we hang the capitalists, they will sell us the rope.
21. The best way to keep the people loyal is to keep them frightened.
22. No man can be a [great leader](#) without a great heart.
23. The strongest of all warriors are these two—Time and Patience.
24. War is not a continuation of politics by other means; it is politics by other means.
25. Every cook must learn to govern the state.
26. To be is to be perceived.
27. A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members.
28. A great man is a product of his time.
29. The man who is not afraid is a man who has nothing to lose.
30. When we are afraid, we lose the power to think and act.

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- It is enough that the people know there was an election. The people who cast the votes decide nothing. The people who count the votes decide everything.
 - In the Soviet army it takes more courage to retreat than advance.
 - Gratitude is a sickness suffered by dogs.
 - Mankind is divided into rich and poor, into property owners and exploited; and to abstract oneself from this fundamental division; and from the

antagonism between poor and rich means abstracting oneself from fundamental facts.

- Ideas are more powerful than guns. We would not let our enemies have guns, why should we let them have ideas.
- Every Jewish nationalist is the agent of the American intelligence service. Jewish nationalists think that their nation was saved by the United States - there you can become rich, bourgeois, etc. They think they're indebted to the Americans. Among doctors, there are many Jewish nationalists.
- A war is on between two groups of capitalist countries ... for the redivision of the world, for the domination of the world! We see nothing wrong in their having a good hard fight and weakening each other ... Hitler, without understanding it or desiring it, is shaking and undermining the capitalist system ... We can manoeuvre, pit one side against the other to set them fighting with each other as fiercely as possible ... The annihilation of Poland would mean one fewer bourgeois fascist state to contend with! What would be the harm if as a result of the rout of Poland we were to extend the socialist system onto new territories and populations? (7 September 1939)
- Ivan the Terrible was extremely cruel. It is possible to show why he had to be cruel. One of the mistakes of Ivan the Terrible was that he did not completely finish off the five big feudal families. If he had destroyed these five families then there would not have been the Time of Troubles. If Ivan the Terrible executed someone then he repented and prayed for a long time. God disturbed him on these matters ... It was necessary to be decisive.
- Our job was to enter Prague before the Americans. The Americans were in a great hurry, but owing to Konev's attack we were able to outdistance the Americans and strike Prague just before its fall. The Americans bombed Czechoslovakian industry. They maintained this policy throughout Europe, for them it was important to destroy those industries which were in competition with them. They bombed with taste.
- Of course, we are not good Christians but to deny the progressive role of Christianity at that particular stage is impossible. This incident had a very great importance because this turned the Russian state to contacts with the West, and not to an orientation towards the East.
- [on the Cossacks] They fought with ferocity, not to say savagery, for the Germans.
- [on the Warsaw Uprising] Sooner or later the truth about the handful of power-seeking criminals who launched the Warsaw adventure will out.
- A problem can be represented as the person: get rid of the person and you get rid of the problem.
- You do not lament the loss of hair of one who has been beheaded.
- I want to tell you what, from the Russian point of view, the president and the United States have done for victory in this war. The most important things in this war are the machines ... The United States is a country of machines. Without the machines we received through Lend-Lease, we would have lost the war.

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Statues of Joseph Stalin

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_statues_of_Joseph_Stalin

This is a list of former and current known monuments dedicated to [Joseph Stalin](#), many having been removed as a result of [de-Stalinization](#). Some are now in [Fallen Monument Park](#). Also, his [name was removed from places, buildings, and the state anthem](#), and his mummified body was removed from the [Lenin Mausoleum](#) and buried elsewhere.

Albania

- A statue of Joseph Stalin stood in [Tirana](#) but was taken down in December 1990.
- A large statue of Stalin, along with one of Lenin, can be found behind the Art Museum in Tirana.

Armenia



Stalin statue in Yerevan

- From November 1950 until spring 1962, a huge Stalin statue was located in [Yerevan](#). It was replaced in 1967 by [Mother Armenia](#).

China

- A statue of Stalin in Stalin Park, [Harbin](#).

Czech Republic

- In [Olomouc](#).
- A massive granite [statue of Stalin](#), the largest depiction of Stalin, stood in [Letná Park](#), Prague from 1955 to 1962.

Germany

- A large statue of Stalin raising his right hand was in [Riesa](#).
- [A statue of Stalin](#) stood in East Berlin's Stalinallee, 1951–61.

Georgia



Stalin statue in front of the [Joseph Stalin Museum](#) in [Gori](#), Georgia

- Small bust in front of the [Batumi Stalin Museum](#).
- A statue of Stalin stood at the town hall in [Gori](#) until it was taken down in June 2010.
- A Bust and a statue of Stalin was displayed in the [Joseph Stalin Museum](#) in [Gori](#), but it was destroyed.
- A statue of Stalin is still displayed in the [Joseph Stalin Museum](#) in [Gori](#).
- A silver statue of Stalin still exists in [Shovi](#).
- A gold statue of Stalin exists in [Tsromi](#).
- A statue exists in the village of Varani, Gori.
- A statue exists near the village Sasashi (42.80454, 42.97124).

Hungary

- Former [Stalin Monument](#) at the edge of [Városliget](#) in [Budapest](#) torn down in 1956.

Lithuania

- In [Grutas Park](#).

Mongolia

- A statue of Stalin stands at Isimuss Club in [Ulaanbaatar](#).
- A statue of Stalin stood at front of the [National Library of Mongolia](#) until 1991.^{[8][9]} It was replaced by a statue of [Byambyn Rinchen](#).

The Netherlands

- A statue of Stalin waist-deep in a pond, it is part of a bigger artwork called "Spitting leaders" ([Fernando Sánchez Castillo](#), 2008) in Presikhaaf Park, [Arnhem](#). The artwork depicts four statues: Stalin, Francisco Franco, Louis XIV, and an unidentified fourth leader. Dressed in military uniforms, with badges and medals, they spit water on each other's faces. Not only are they mocked by the artist, but they mock each other.

Poland

- An [Ustrzyki Dolne](#) statue 1951–56. As the result of the [1951 Polish–Soviet territorial exchange](#) Poland obtained Ustrzyki Dolne, where Stalin's statue existed. The statue was unpopular, dressed, decorated with sausages or a broom and finally removed in 1956.
- [Kraków](#) – with [Vladimir Lenin](#), in Strzelecki Park, removed in 1957

Romania

- A statue of Stalin stood at the entrance of *Parcul I. V. Stalin* (now renamed [Parcul Herăstrău](#)) in Bucharest but was torn down sometime between 1959 and 1965, during the [De-Stalinization in Romania](#).
- A statue was located in front of the Central Party Committee Building (today the Prefecture) in [Braşov](#) but was torn down sometime between 1959 and 1965 during the [De-Stalinization in Romania](#).
- A statue by [Márton Izsák](#), located in the city center in [Târgu Mureş](#), was torn down in 1962 during the [De-Stalinization in Romania](#)

Russia

- Many statues can be found at [Fallen Monument Park](#), Moscow.
- Bust at his tomb in the [Kremlin Wall Necropolis](#), Moscow.
- Bust in the [Museum of the Great Patriotic War](#), Moscow.^[14]
- Statue of Stalin along with [Franklin Roosevelt](#) and [Winston Churchill](#) at the [All-Russia Exhibition Center](#), Moscow.
- A large Stalin statue stood at the [All-Russia Exhibition Center](#) until 1948.
- A large statue of Stalin (created in 1952 by sculptor E.V. Vuchetich) stood in a southern suburb of Volgograd until 1961. A huge statue of Lenin, created by the same sculptor, was set up in the same spot and on the same base in 1972.
- A bust stands at the Memorial of Glory in [Vladikavkaz](#).
- A bust stands at School No. 2 in [Ardon](#), [North Ossetia](#).
- There is a bust of Stalin in the Communist Party's regional headquarters in [Bryansk](#).
- A bust of Stalin is in [Kizel](#).
- A statue in [Nogir](#) [[ru](#)], [North Ossetia–Alania](#).
- A bust of Stalin in the village of [Chokh](#), Dagestan (42.319722, 47.031167).
- A bust of Stalin at a square in [Derbent](#), Dagestan (42.054718, 48.310115).
- A bust of Stalin in the town of [Dagestanskiye Ogni](#), Dagestan (until 2021).

- Bust of Stalin near the Battle of Stalingrad Museum alongside those of [Georgy Zhukov](#) and [Alexander Vasilevsky](#).

Tajikistan

- A Stalin statue stands at a nursery school in [Asht](#).

Ukraine

- A bust of Stalin was formerly exhibited in front of the [Communist Party of Ukraine's](#) headquarters in [Zaporizhzhia](#) in 2010. Broken in January 2011 by [Explosion](#).^[21]
- Last known statue of Stalin is on the road into Chernobyl.

United States

- A bust of Stalin was erected at the [National D-Day Memorial](#) in [Bedford, Virginia](#) in 2010, but after controversy was soon removed for a planned relocation on the site. It had not reappeared as of March 2019.

Stalin's statues



Massive Stalin statue in Prague



Statue of Stalin in Stalinallee, Berlin, Germany.



Statue of Vladimir Lenin and Stalin at the Leipzig Trade Fair of 1954.



Penza, 1954. Lenin & Stalin near Penza Planetarium



Statue of Stalin and Klement Gottwald at the Gundelfingen stone-cutting company.

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[01] <https://www.gettyimages.in/search/2/image?phrase=monument+of+joseph+stalin>

[02] <https://www.gettyimages.in/search/2/image?page=2&sort=oldest&phrase=monument+of+joseph+stalin>

Books on Joseph Stalin

Last updated: September 27, 2024

<https://fivebooks.com/category/history-books/russian-history/stalin-books/>

Joseph Stalin was the leader of the Soviet Union from 1924 until his death in 1953 and as one of the great political monsters of the 20th century—responsible for millions of unnecessary deaths—he's also a subject of fascination with a lot of books written about him. Born Joseph Dzhugashvili in Georgia, then a part of the Russian Empire, in 1878, he remains the epitome of the dictator able to transform their country through violence and sheer political will. His legacy continues to haunt Russia, long after the collapse of communism, with President Vladimir Putin openly admiring his strong-man political character.

Anne Applebaum's *Gulag: A History* explores the structure of the system of mass incarceration and terror through which he ran the Soviet Union. The classic *Eastern Approaches*, by British diplomat Fitzroy Maclean, gives a firsthand description of life in Moscow during Stalin's show trials. For a novel laying bare how Stalin maintained control, British historian and Russia specialist Orlando Figes recommends *The First Circle* by [Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn](#).

Stalin's personality can be explored through [Milovan Djilas' first-hand account of Stalin's 'court'](#). In Simon Sebag-Montefiore's *Young Stalin* you can find the man behind the monster and understand something of what formed him and what drove him (he even trained briefly as a priest). In *Stalin's Library* and *Stalin's Scribe* you can his relationship to culture and Russia's literary world. Stalin was an avid reader and had a library of more than 20,000 books; many have his jottings in the margins.

Young Stalin

by [Simon Sebag Montefiore](#)

*****LA Times Book Prize for Best Biography 2007*****

Read [expert recommendations](#)

"You can see in the young Stalin considerable signals that he is a very strange man of certain twitches, but a man of great charisma. I suppose the question that Sebag Montefiore doesn't ask is whether Stalin's imprisonments made him worse than he would have been otherwise. Stalin was a great bank robber, the Butch Cassidy of the Bolsheviks. He was not a hugely advanced thinker but he definitely had a sense of what was wrong with his time and place." [Read more...](#)

[The best books on Revolutionary Russia](#)

[Thomas Keneally](#), Novelist

[Gulag: A History](#)

by [Anne Applebaum](#)

*****Winner of the 2004 [Pulitzer Prize for Nonfiction](#)*****

*****Winner of the 2003 [Duff Cooper Prize](#) (for nonfiction)*****

Read [expert recommendations](#)

"To see what Stalin did to Russia, the best book is Anne Applebaum's [Gulag: A History](#). Based on detailed archival research, she tells of the sudden arrests, the sham trials, the gruelling transportation, the hardships of labour camps, starvation and disease – and also the way in which modern Russia is unwilling to come to terms with them" [Read more...](#)

[The best books on Contemporary Russia](#)

[Edward Lucas](#), Journalist

[Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine](#)

by [Anne Applebaum](#)

*****Winner of the 2017 [Duff Cooper Prize](#) (for nonfiction)*****

*****Winner of the 2018 [Lionel Gelber Prize](#) (for a nonfiction book about international affairs)*****

Red Famine is Anne Applebaum's prizewinning book about the Holodomor (1932-3) a "term derived from the [Ukrainian](#) words for hunger—*holod*—and extermination—*mor*." Nearly 4 million Ukrainians died as [Stalin](#) deliberately set out to make a famine caused by collectivization worse.

Read [expert recommendations](#)

The First Circle

by [Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn](#)

*****Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn was winner of the 1970 [Nobel Prize in Literature](#)*****

"What this book helped me to do is think of Stalin as a cross between Big Brother and the Wizard of Oz. His presence is everywhere, but he's nowhere and doesn't really show himself very much. And, actually, in those four chapters, the real Stalin is this rather pathetic, elderly man with yellow teeth who doesn't wash. He's just insignificant, somehow. He doesn't command respect or authority from his persona. He commands authority because of the system he's at the center of."

[Orlando Figes](#), interview on [the best Russian novels](#), 31 August, 2022

Read [expert recommendations](#)

"The Gulag is a very microcosmic, intensive form of Stalinism and other writers—like Shalamov for example—have described the Gulag in a way that is unforgettable. But as a broad canvas, albeit set in a very privileged part of the Gulag, of how this Nineteen Eighty-Four world works, The First Circle does more than any other book to get us there." [Read more...](#)

The Best Russian Novels

[Orlando Figes](#), Historian

Stalin's Library: A Dictator and his Books

by [Geoffrey Roberts](#)

Read [expert recommendations](#)

"If you're reading this, you probably like books and may be disappointed to learn that Stalin was also a voracious reader. Stalin's Library: A Dictator and His Books is by British historian Geoffrey Roberts, author of several books on the Russian leader (plus one on Zhukov). Stalin had more than 20,000 books in his library and they weren't just for show." [Read more...](#)

Notable Nonfiction of Early 2022

[Sophie Roell](#), Journalist

Conversations with Stalin

by [Milovan Djilas](#)

Read [expert recommendations](#)

"Djilas was Tito's number two, and negotiated with the Kremlin on various diplomatic missions. He's a terrific source on the grotesque late-Stalin court – the ghastly, drunken, late-night banquets at Stalin's dacha, the bullying, fear and paranoia; the way the whole Kremlin circle was completely cut off from reality. Stalin had always been suspicious of Leningrad, disliking its Europhile bent and fearing it as an alternative centre of power. After the war, he purged the city's party leadership and cracked down on its intelligentsia, most famously on the poet Anna Akhmatova, whose son, having been released from the Gulag to fight for his country, was sent straight back to the camps. Stalin did not, however, engineer the siege—which is one theory that has been around." [Read more...](#)

[The best books on The Siege of Leningrad](#)

[Anna Reid](#), Journalist

[Stalin's Genocides](#)

by [Norman Naimark](#)

A short book (less than 200 pages) on Stalin's crimes by American historian and genocide expert Norman Naimark. As he points out, there is considerable disagreement about how many were killed as a result of Stalin's policies and actions and a lot depends on how ones defines 'mass killing.' Naimark comes down on a figure of 15 to 20 million dead as a result of Stalin's policies from 1928 to 1953.

Read [expert recommendations](#)

[The Silent Steppe: The Story of a Kazakh Nomad Under Stalin](#)

by [Mukhamet Shayakhmetov](#)

This is a firsthand account, matter-of-fact in tone, by a Kazakh herder of his life growing up in 20th century Kazakhstan. Born in 1922, Mukhamet Shayakhmetov's life revolves around his 'aul', the traditional Kazakh family grouping that is both abstract and the collection of yurts that moves around between winter and summer—with herds of camels, horses, cattle and sheep. He is just 7 years old when Stalin's campaign to dispossess the kulaks reaches Altai in 1929, netting first his uncle and then his father. By 9 he is acting as the man in the family, going long distances on horseback on his own to get food for his father in prison. He manages to survive both the Kazakh famine and the Great Patriotic War, fighting in the army at Stalingrad. It's a tragic tale, the lack of comprehension of the Kazakh herders at what the Soviet bureaucratic state was up to painful to read. Early in the book, when the political persecution is just getting going, he's at a trial and notes how everyone was astonished by the proceedings: "some even dared to laugh."

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Eastern Approaches

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"Maclean was one of the great characters of the 20th century. He was a junior diplomat in Moscow in the late 30s and then went on to join the SAS. During the war he kidnapped a Persian general who had collaborated with the Nazis. He was also a friend of Ian Fleming and partly an inspiration for the James Bond character. His account of the Soviet Union in the 30s was quite brilliant. A lot of journalists in those days were making excuses for communism, suggesting it was a hope for the future and were putting the best possible spin on it. But his account showed the whole hopelessness of the Soviet empire – its incompetence and its evilness. He did a brilliant account of the great Stalin purge trials, when most of the leading communists of the day were destroyed by Stalin. That whole bleak period was brilliantly described by Maclean. He showed up the hollowness and incompetence of the whole Soviet system. This is a very carefully worded account of life in those early days after the revolution, one of the first exposés of that system. He tells one particular story when he was a young diplomat. He went to a cocktail party and had a relationship with a young Russian ballet dancer who then disappeared. He had a phone call from her mother saying she'd disappeared and that she'd never forgive him." [Read more...](#)

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[Richard Beeston](#), Foreign Correspondent

Stalin's Scribe: Literature, Ambition, and Survival, the Life of Mikhail Sholokhov

by [Brian Boeck](#)

Mikhail Sholokhov was winner of the 1965 [Nobel Prize in Literature](#)

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"With Sholokhov what is interesting is that he's a man of many mysteries. It's about the question of lies and fake news, but in a different way than we deal with it now. He's someone who becomes the ideal Soviet writer. But his official biography has a lot of lacunas. Certain things are hidden, and other things are actually exaggerated and Brian Boeck goes through that. Sholokhov is a man who wrote so much and was politically exceptionally important, but this is the first comprehensive biography about him. It's a political biography, but not only. There are questions, like whether his best known and most brilliant work, And Quiet Flows the Don, was stolen or not, whether he really wrote it or not, what his relationship with Stalin was. In my reading, it's about a talent being subdued and corrupted...It's an

excellent piece of work by a historian. Boeck goes and consults the archives, some materials for the first time. He was going on an almost yearly basis to the area from which Sholokhov comes, the Rostov-on-Don area in southern Russia...It's the work of a Western scholar who is really very immersed in his subject and in the psychology of the place that he writes about. He brings so to speak local knowledge and sensibilities to a history of one of the top Soviet intellectuals." [Read more...](#)

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